**GOSSLP Encourages you to be a Participant in ASHA’s Student Mentor Program**

Are you seeking ways of supporting the next generation of Speech/Language Pathologists?

Do you need to have your own mind stretched and challenged by an enthusiastic, inquisitive young professional?

We at GOSSLP would like to encourage you to participate in the ASHA supported *Student to Empowered Professional (STEP)*. This is a virtual online mentoring program where mentees and mentors communicate to address a short- or long-term goal via e-mail, Skype, phone, text, or Facebook. Mentees and mentors have the option of making arrangements to meet face-to-face; however, face-to-face mentoring isn't a component of the S.T.E.P. program. Student participants are paired with professionals who provide guidance, feedback, and support for career development in the professions (e.g., academic pursuits, career goals, and exploring areas of interest in the professions) in a meaningful, one-to-one relationship.

There are two 1:1 mentoring options: Fall session (6 months, October 1 – April 15) and Winter session (3 months, January 7 – April 15).

ASHA’s goal is to strengthen the S.T.E.P. mentoring community. All mentees and mentors are enrolled in the ASHA S.T.E.P. Community. The S.T.E.P. Community is a place for you to connect, learn, and share with other S.T.E.P. mentees and mentors. To fully participate in the community, you must be an ASHA or NSSLHA member. Students are encouraged to be a NSSLHA member to have access to all of the conversations that take place in the ASHA S.T.E.P Community.

Why Mentor?

ASHA lists the following benefits to participating in a mentoring program;

* Exposure to the emerging talent pool
* Ongoing attention to mentor's own career development
* Satisfaction from imparting wisdom and experience to others in the profession without a huge time commitment
* Enhancement of coaching, mentoring, leadership, and management skills
* Chance to be exposed to a diversity of thought, style, personality, and culture
* A way to recruit employees for the mentor's industry/company
* Feedback loop to students and school regarding curriculum needs
* Greater knowledge of recruiting success factors
* A way to "give back" to their association
* A lasting career network
* We sincerely hope you will consider this opportunity for growth for both your mentee and yourself! For more information, including registration information for Fall 2014 go to <http://www.asha.org/students/mentoring/step/AboutSTEP/>